



SOCCEER ACTION

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Croatia gets Odzakov

By LAURIE SCHWAB

Zarko Odzakov will make his debut with Sydney Croatia against Newcastle-Rosebud at Adams Oval on Saturday night, and also hopes to force his way into the Socceroo squad for the World Cup qualifying series.

"I'll be closer to Frank Arok in Sydney," Odzakov said after a \$21,000 transfer from Preston Makedonia on Monday.

Makedonia had wanted \$32,000 for him but there was never a chance that any club would pay so much.

Ironically, Makedonia fans were clamoring for Odzakov's return to the senior team as the club lost 0-1 to South Melbourne-Hellas last Sunday.

"I hope I will get a chance to play for the national team," Odzakov said. "I have an appointment for Australian citizenship on Wednesday (today) and afterwards, I will fly to Sydney."

"I hope to have my citizenship in two or three months, if everything goes OK."

Odzakov said he was looking forward to playing alongside Vedran Rozic, the Sydney Croatia coach who finally got his clearance from Hajduk Split, and played in the 1-2 loss to Wollongong last Sunday.

"Rozic played for Yugoslavia, and he had maybe 500 games for Hajduk. I played against him a couple of times while I was with Vardar, and he is a top player."

With Odzakov in the team, Sydney Croatia continues to develop into perhaps the most glamorous team in Australian soccer.

Although Sydney Croatia succeeded in forcing Odzakov's transfer fee down, he still is the most expensive player of the season so far.

At Croatia, Odzakov links up with Socceroo Jim Patikas who was bought from Sydney Olympic.

Former Melbourne Croatia coach Tony Vrzina was the go-



Zarko Odzakov

between in the deal between Odzakov and Sydney Croatia. Odzakov, 29, had refused to accept the terms of a new contract Makedonia wanted him to sign, so the club relegated him to its youth team.

Yet Odzakov was Makedonia's player of the year in 1983, and has been hailed by many experts as the finest midfielder in Australia and he played more than 200 Yugoslav First Division matches for Vardar Skopje before coming to Australia.

When Makedonia asked all its players to take a pay cut because the season will be shorter this year, Odzakov agreed to a \$2600 reduction in his contract pay, providing the club provided air tickets back to Yugoslavia for him and his wife and child. His existing contract, which was to expire at the end of the season, provided for only one air ticket.

According to Odzakov, Makedonia agreed to the two and a half airfares providing that when he returned to Yugoslavia, the club that bought him would pay Makedonia a \$3000 transfer fee.

Alternatively, Odzakov could have had a free transfer in Yugoslavia, but no air tickets.

Odzakov argued that in Yugoslavia, \$3000 was a prohibitive fee.

Neither side would budge in the dispute, and so Victoria has lost one of its finest players.

• Punches, head-butts, spectators and players fighting, linesmen getting assaulted, sending offs... the dust still hasn't settled following a fiery South Australian Ampol Cup final. Allan Crisp reports from Adelaide on page 11.

Puskas the living legend moves on to Melbourne

Last weekend I met a living legend. I even had dinner with him, watching, with awe and respect, his legendary appetite (stuffed cabbages, roast pork with pomme parisienne, then rich Hungarian langos) which has shaped his rotund figure hovering around the 100 kilograms.

For Ferenc Puskas was in Sydney town doing his promotion, obliging his hosts, reminiscing with old acquaintances, backslapping with hysterically excited new 'friends', appearing in old boys' game and excusing with some \$2,000 for his efforts.

Even the gods have their price.

At the moment he's in Canberra but he returns to Melbourne on Friday for another round of engagements — a dinner at Tommy Stankovic's Robin Queen restaurant on Tuesday; a ball in his honor at Hungarian House, Wantirna, on Saturday, March 30; a game with the Melbourne-Hellas old boys at Williamstown on April 6 and a game



By ANDREW DETTRE

for Geelong old boys against Melbourne old boys in Geelong on April 7. There's also a farewell party for him at the Brighton Savoy Hotel on April 12.

In everything he's said and done, Puskas has been the perfect gentleman and professional. Although occasionally he did look a trifle tired or bored, he is not cynical, not blasé, not cheeched off with 40 years of incessant adoration.

Even Christ only had 30 years or so of it.

When Puskas enters a packed auditorium, his short, podgy presence fills the hall; people automatically stand up as they would with royalty. Whether he eats, talks or just relaxes, he is not left

alone for a moment. Autograph hunters, camera buffs or just simple admirers surround him. A piece of sporting history is in front of their eyes; the legend of a thousand tales has assumed human form. In order to eat garlic bread in the St. George Club of Sydney, in the company of some eight people who forked out \$100 for the joy of it all.

There is a lot of Mickey Rooneyism in Puskas: A short, plainly fat little man of 60, for all the world like a boy playing with billiocmed-down thinning black hair. He breathes heavily, with an occasional wheeze and a grunt; his face is ruddy as it was 40 years ago except that decades have crumpled it up somewhat.

The great Puskas is not a sartorial dresser; a nondescript pair of grey slacks and poorly matching jacket, plain business shirt and blue silk tie. In his buttonhole Football's legend D'Homme: The gold and diamond Real Madrid badge.

Continued page 7



Ferenc Puskas



Pele — 'not among the top three'

Can anyone stop Bergers?



By LAURIE SCHWAB

Melbourne Croatia and Heidelberg-Alexander probably will have reached the National Cup quarter-finals by the time they square up in their top-of-the-table clash at Olympic Park on Sunday.

In the second round of the Cup at Olympic Park tonight (Wednesday), Croatia looks too strong for Sunshine-George Cross in the early match at 6.30 pm while Heidelberg should beat Makedonia in the later game at 8.30 pm.

Makedonia is likely to miss Con Opasini and Steve Smith who are injured, and there's doubt about goalkeeper Richard Wilson who was left out last Sunday for disciplinary reasons.

Heidelberg, on the other hand, is at full strength, with ace goalscorer Scott Patterson still on the bench.

Croatia long wait for coach Dom Kapetanovic and new striker Andrew Crisp could be a long one. Frank Burin also has revealed that at the half-way mark of the season, Croatia will have one of the biggest names yet to come to this country.

Croatia is on top of the Southern Division ladder, with Victor Cristaldo starring in midfield, and Gary Ward having scored his first goal for his new club last weekend.

Heidelberg beat Croatia 5-1 in the Buffalo Gold Cup final, and is undefeated in 10 straight games this year. It certainly looks like another Heidelberg victory.

Green Gully meanwhile, is awaiting a medical report before paying Hellas a transfer fee for its former captain Arthur Xanthopoulos. The sweeper agreed to join Green Gully last Saturday, but then had twinges in an old injury, and suggested he get a check-up before money changes hands.

If he is OK, and if he does transfer officially during the week, Xanthopoulos may turn out against Brisbane Lions in the only Saturday match in the Southern Division.

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Come back Walter, all is forgiven

By LAURIE SCHWAB

Walter Valeri has been taken off Inter-Monaro's transfer list after being sacked last week, and the club has been joined by former Dinamo Zagreb forward Emil Dragicevic who had been training with Sydney Croatia.

Valeri, 29, the Inter-Monaro captain, was sacked over opinions he put to club directors on behalf of the players, but he still won't say exactly what those opinions were.

"On the Wednesday before our first game, against Canberra, I was called in by the directors and asked certain questions about how the team was going, and I told them, 'Valeri said.'

"Apparently I must have offended a few people."

"I had the player's support, and a couple of players later talked to the president and told him that I had merely spoken on their behalf, so I was taken off the transfer list again."

"I was asked by the directors what the players felt about our new coach, Romanian Jose Dobson, and I expressed the players' feelings. The directors didn't like it."

"He obviously has a communication problem. It's OK when he speaks to us. He can get his points across, but there's a problem when we try to talk to him, or make suggestions. We've been using an interpreter lately, and it's much better now. Everything's fine in that regard."

I found the story under the heading "Selemidis clears up photo phobia" in last week's "Soccer Action", a fascinating exercise in whining self-justification.

But it's all my fault, of course, I thought it was just the final of the Buffalo



Walter Valeri



Emil Dragicevic

"Another thing was that there were too many people interfering, talking about who should play and how we should play. We said, 'Let the coach handle it.' It's his job that's on the line, not Valeri's, and anyone else says."

Although Valeri is back in the fold, Frank Brunaccini's resignation as team manager still stands.

"Players have to go through the manager in order to communicate with the directors, and so I had to talk to Brumacci first," Valeri said. "He didn't like what I had to say, and he put all the blame on me, although I was speaking only on behalf of the players."

Asked to spell out exactly what it was that Valeri and the players had to say to the directors, Valeri said: "It's something I don't want to go into too deeply. Most of it is only between the players and the club."

The players felt that it was wrong to sack Valeri the Thursday before the game. They met on Friday night and many wanted to take action — a strike perhaps — but Valeri dissuaded them.

At the height of the dispute, Inter-Monaro wanted to swap Valeri for Canberra's Angelo Ambrosino, and Canberra agreed, but on Tuesday last week, when the storm had blown over, Canberra was informed by telegram that Valeri was off the transfer list.

Valeri first joined Inter Monaro in 1977 after five years with West Woden Juventus, and stints in Griffiths with Hanwood and Griffiths United. He left Inter-Monaro to play for Canberra Arrows and then APIA before returning to Inter Monaro last year.

Although switched to midfield, he was top scorer in the NSW State League in 1984.

STOP WHINING THEO!

By 'Soccer Action' photographer LES SHORROCK

Gold Summer Cup, not the premier sporting event of the century, and it was extremely improper of me to overlook the sensibilities of the players whom we all know are extremely sensitive and nervous about playing in public.

Why did I want to take a team photograph? Well, although Master Selemidis might not realise it, he and his team, Heidelberg, have certain obligations to fulfil — to their fans, who buy the

papers to read about their exploits; to the VSF, which staged the game; and most of all to the sponsor, who put a lot of money into the competition.

The VSF, keenly aware of all this, wished to present a pictorial memento of the Cup to the sponsor, but thanks to Selemidis' insistence and his team-mates gleefully grabbed the Cup and the medals, and the money, the VSF and the sponsor got nothing, and for that matter neither did the readers of this or any other newspaper.

The excuse that there wasn't time to take a team photo is incorrect. The teams came out a quarter of an hour early, and after begging Selemidis, the Heidelberg captain, three times to oblige, I even went to referee Mike Gault, who wasn't in the slightest bit perturbed about being kept waiting.

I had far less trouble during the last World Cup finals with Brazil, Northern Ireland, England and the others, but then, their players are professionals.

The Heidelberg players (most of whom are not backward at begging for pictures of themselves) owe an apology — not to me — but to the long-suffering public. Most of the players profess a lofty disdain for the press, but the fact of the matter is, there should be give and take. We both need each other, whether the players like it or not.

South Melbourne Hellas's nippy striker Charlie Egan is pessimistic about his future with the national soccer team, but he's keeping his fingers crossed, hoping his goal-scoring exploits will sway Socceroo coach Frank Arok.

Egan scored twice and was

best on the ground as Hellas beat Green Gully 3-2 in their first-round National Soccer League match at Middle Park.

And he was the top scorer on the Socceroos' world tour late last year, notching a total of four goals although he played only two full matches. In seven other games on the 12-match tour he was replaced at a strike perhaps — but Valeri dissuaded them.

The Socceroos have a busy match schedule this year. International tournaments against leading European teams are planned here in May and in June/July, as preparation for the World Cup qualifying series in September/October.

But Egan fears it may all pass him by.

"I don't really feel confident of being selected again," he said, "but I'm certainly keeping my fingers crossed, because I'd love to play in the World Cup."

"Frank Arok uses two strikers and, with David Mitchell

returning to Australia from Glasgow Rangers, it looks like he and John Kosmina will get the two positions."

"Marshall Soper has sorted

out his contract hassles with Sydney Olympic and is back in action, so he too will stake a strong claim."

"Then there's Frank Farine, who had more games than I did on the tour, and the most experienced of the forwards, Phil O'Connor, who wasn't at his best on tour because he'd just recovered from an injury."

"In other words, there are a lot of players in the queue ahead of me."

He believes he'd have a much better chance were he playing in Sydney.

"Melbourne players continue to be overlooked when it comes to national team selection even though Melbourne soccer now is far superior to Sydney's, and we have a greater proportion of the country's best players," Egan said.

"It's so obvious every time you compare the games on television."

However, Egan expects his Hellas team-mates Oscar Crino and Ken Murphy to retain their positions in the national squad, even though neither has been given formal

"Oscar had an infection after cutting his shin while hill-climbing and that caused him to miss our pre-season training," Egan said. "Now he has to get his fitness in games, but it won't be long before you see him back at his best."

"Kenny had a much better game against Green Gully and it looks like he'll be a key player in the national team."

Egan said Hellas right back Bobby Russell and Stopper Steve Blair also deserved places in the Socceroo squad, as did some of Makedonia's players, particularly defender Ian Dobson.

"Hellas won the national championship last year and Makedonia has been in great form for a few years now. Surely if the players are producing the results they should be given a go," Egan said.

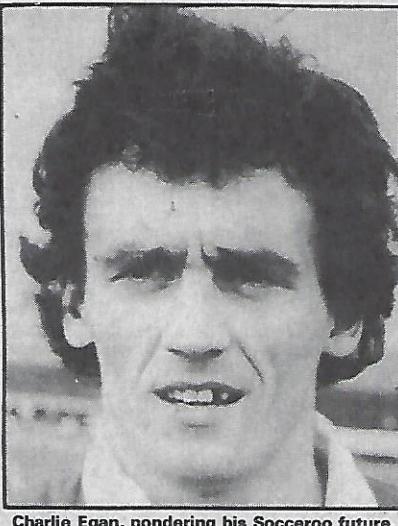
But the nucleus of the national team is in place, and it won't be changed unless there are injuries, he added. "The way I see it, Terry Greeley, David Ratcliffe, Graham Jennings, Tommy McCulloch, Oscar Crino, John Kosmina and probably Ken Murphy all look dead set certainties."

Egan's own chances depend, he believes, on his form in NSL matches. "Hellas has been slow to begin the season, but we're coming good," he said.

"I think the feeling among the lads is, 'Here we go again.'

"We've done it all before, we've

won the league and we've got nothing left to prove. But teams like Heidelberg and Makedonia are really hungry, and it's up to us to get just as hungry."



Charlie Egan, pondering his Socceroo future.



Frank Arok



Ian Dobson



Steve Blair



Oscar Crino



Bobby Russell



David Mitchell

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GOALS GALORE BUT EGAN FEARS WORST

Melbourne players get cold shoulder

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won the league and we've got nothing left to prove. But teams like Heidelberg and Makedonia are really hungry, and it's up to us to get just as hungry."

He's the marketing manager for Coca-Cola in Sydney and we certainly could use his expertise both on and off the park. Let's hope that once his playing days are over he gets involved either in coaching or as an administrator for the game sure needs guys like him.

"Rowdie" links up with Bertie Mariani in the centre of APIA's defence and they'll be a really formidable com-

Welcome back "Rowdie", watch out for Gong!

KAT'S CORNER

with PETER KATHOLOS

Panathinaikos looking good

What a thrill it will be for all Greek soccer fans if Panathinaikos gets through to the semis of the European Cup.

Panathinaikos plays its second leg, quarter-final match tonight (Wednesday) against Swedish champs Gothenburg after winning 1-0 in Sweden. A man would be mad not to back the Greeks in this one.

And if, as expected, Panathinaikos reaches the semis then it could come up against one of the glamor teams in Europe in either Juventus or Turin or Liverpool.

Panathinaikos is trying to emulate its mighty feet back in 1971 when it reached the European Cup final against the great Ajax Amsterdam and having trained with Panathinaikos during the off-season I'm well aware of the

standing qualities of Polish coach Jacek Smoch, who took Poland to Argentina for the 1978 World Cup final.

Smoch is a master tactician. He prides himself on knowing a lot about opposing sides and gives his players specific instructions on how to counter the opponents' strengths.

Yugoslav international Zajec is one of Panathinaikos' stars but its best player for me is Argentinian Juan Rotsa.

Welcome Ferenc

How fitting Ferenc Puskas is

now. He's back in the game here, because his exploits as a player and his knowledge as a coach still represent the finer things in soccer. It's really great to see him here.

Surprise surprise

The big surprises in the Northern Division of the NSL this year will be Wollongong and Newcastle Rosebud United. Mark my words.

Wollongong finished bottom last year while Rosebud ended up in 8th spot but they'll be big improvers for sure.

Olympic played the 'Buds the other week and they really impressed me with their cohesion and their outstanding defence. Gone are the days when Rosebud and Wollongong were easybeats and that's hertening news for the NSL bosses and for soccer fans throughout the land for the more com-



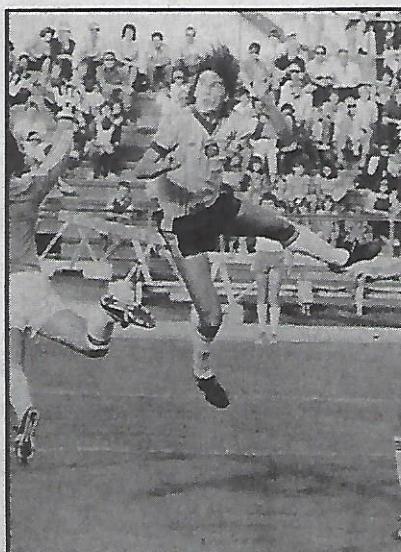
• Eddie Krnecovic (standing, fifth from left) in Canton, China, with the Socceros in 1979. From left, standing: Gutendorf (coach), Cale, Mullen, Jankovics, Krnecovic, Bertogna, Russell, Tansey, Henderson, Dr Kannangara (team doctor). Front: J Nyskohus, P O'Connor, Prskalo, Coyne, Boden, Rooney (rear), Crook (front), Cumming (rear), Woodhouse (front), Perry, Sharne.



• It was a clean sweep for Marconi in the 1979 player awards. Krnecovic (left) was named Australian Under 21 Player of the Year. Les Scheinflug Coach of the Year and Ivo Prskalo Player of the Year. With them are Marconi team-mates Mark Jankovics and Peter Sharne, and official Tony Labbozetta.



• Krnecovic scores for Melbourne Croatia against the now defunct Hakoah. At left are Hakoah goalkeeper Bill Whiteside and midfielder John Daperis.



• Krnecovic leaps to score one of his two goals in a 3-3 World Cup qualifying game against New Zealand in Auckland in 1981. Australia lost the return game in Sydney and eventually was eliminated.



• Krnecovic with the 1981 World Cup squad in New Zealand. From left: Maher, Giampaolo, Boden, Blair (obscured), Zendoom, Jankovics, Krnecovic, Perry (rear), Sharne, Gutendorf (coach), Rogers (rear), Katholos (front), Barnes, Davidson, Henderson, Tansey, Kosmina.



• Eddie Krnecovic shows his determined style in a match for Marconi.



• Krnecovic and coach Rudi Gutendorf up the Great Wall of China on the Socceros' 1981 tour.



• Krnecovic, as captain, accepts the Ocean Cup after the Socceros' triumph in Noumea in 1980.

Krnecovic kills 'em in Belgium

Eddie Krnecovic has taken Belgium by storm. In his first three games with Cercle Brugge, he scored two goals, set up three and was named man of the match each time.

Yesterday (Tuesday) he played for an all-star team against Belgium in a charity match to raise funds for the Ethiopia famine appeal.

The all-stars were made up of the best foreign players in Belgium.

The team was:

Morten Olsen (Anderlecht) Edhem Silvo (FC Liegeois), Soeren Busk (Gantiose), Heinz Schoenberger (Beveren), Jim Bett (Lokeren), Joachim Benfeld (KV Malinio), Birger Jensen (Club Brugge), Dusko Lukic (KV Courtrai), N'goy Eugene Kabongo (FC Seraing), Toine Van Miero (RWDM) and Krnecovic.

The Belgian national team used all its stars, including Erwin Vandenberghe, Jan Ceulemans, René Vandereycken, Nico Claesen, Alexandre Czerniawski and Venzenzo Scifo.

The result of the match was not known as we went to press, but it marked a highlight in the career of Krnecovic, who set off three years ago to try his luck in Europe.

First he went to Dinamo Zagreb on a \$30,000 transfer from Marconi. The transfer fee, incidentally, was paid by a friend, Harry Mrksa. Before joining Marconi, Krnecovic had played for Melbourne Croatia and, as a junior, for Juventus.

From Dinamo, he switched to West German Second Division Bundesliga club MSV Duisburg. From there, Krnecovic takes up the story:

"Joining Brugge happened so quickly. I still had six months left with Duisburg but I wasn't enjoying my game there, as I was playing in



midfield, so Duisburg loaned me out to Brugge for the remainder of the contract.

"I was really glad to be played up front again, and things started to go right for me from the very first game. It was against Anderlecht and although we lost 1-2, I set up the goal, and had a really good game."



By LAURIE SCHWAB

"HET ELFTAL VAN DE WEEK"

Boekstaens (Antwerp)	Desloovere M. Millecamp (Waregem)	Delen (Lierse)
Bevers (St-Niklaas)	Pier Janssen (Waterschei)	Thans (Luik)
Krnecovic (SV Brugge)	Kabongo (Seraing)	Voordeckers (Waterschei)

• Derde selectie voor Bodart, Boekstaens, Voordeckers: twee-

"I've had some really interesting offers from France and from some teams in England but I can't name them yet, as I promised them not to let out anything in the press until something is finalised."

"Also, Cercle Brugge, after only three games, wanted me to sign a contract for next season but I've told them that I'll have talks with them when this season ends."

Krnecovic scored 17 goals in 33 games for

• FAR LEFT: Krnecovic (No 9) rises high in a Belgian First Division match for Cercle Brugge and, at left, he's named in the league's "Team of the Week", although the paper got the name of the club wrong!

Australia from 1979 to 1981 but Socceros coach Frank Arok said recently he wasn't considering the big striker for the World Cup this year because Krnecovic knows very few of the present national team players and never has trained with them.

In the light of Krnecovic's remarkable exploits in Belgium, will Arok change his mind?



Weekend NSL matches with likely winners in capitals:

SOUTHERN DIVISION**SATURDAY**

GREEN GULLY v. Brisbane Lions at Green Gully Reserve, 3 pm, referee: S. Mellings.

SUNDAY

Preston-Makedonia v. BU-JUVENTUS at Connor Reserve, 3 pm, referee: J. Fearn.
 Melbourne Croatia v. HEIDELBERG-ALEXANDER at Olympic Park, 3 pm, referee: C. Cambridge.
 SOUTH MELBOURNE HELLAS v. Footscray JUST at Middle Park, 3 pm, referee: S. Zoumas.
 West Adelaide Hellas v. ADELAIDE CITY JUVENTUS at Hindmarsh Stadium, 2:30 pm, referee: D. Campbell.
 Brisbane City v. Sunshine-George Cross (draw) at Spencer Park, 3 pm, referee: A. Kibbler.

NORTHERN DIVISION**SATURDAY**

Newcastle-Rosebud v. SYDNEY CROATIA at Adamstown Oval, 7 pm. Referee: T. Davies.

SUNDAY

MARCONI v. St. George Budapest at Marconi Stadium, 3 pm, referee: G. Power.

Canberra loses youth titles

Canberra — for the first time in five years — has had to decline to host the national youth titles.

And the reason? "The lack of suitably priced accommodation," said ACT Federation president, Mr Roger Grylls.

Usually the 180 competitors and officials have been accommodated at the Commonwealth-owned Gowrie Hotel, but because of extensive renovation work it is unavailable."

Mr Grylls said he now expected that the 1985 titles would be held in Sydney with teams and officials being accommodated at the former Endeavour Migrant Hostel.

— PETER WINDSOR

SYDNEY OLYMPIC v. Canberra Olympians at Pratten Park, 3 pm, referee: P. Rampley.

Penrith v. Blacktown (draw) at Cook Park, St Mary's 3 pm, referee: G. Warne.

INTER-MONARO v. APIA-Leichhardt at Seiffert Oval, 3 pm, referee: N. Murray.

SYDNEY CITY HAKOAH v. Wollongong at Wentworth Park, 3 pm, referee: R. Davies.

NATIONAL CUP
TONIGHT (WEDNESDAY)

MELBOURNE CROATIA v. Sunshine-George Cross at Olympic Park, 6:30 pm.

HEIDELBERG-ALEXANDER v. Preston-Makedonia at Olympic Park, 8:30 pm.

SYDNEY CITY HAKOAH v. Green Gully at St. George Stadium, 6:30 pm.

SYDNEY OLYMPIC v. APIA-Leichhardt at St. George Stadium, 8:30 pm.

NEWCASTLE-ROSEBUD v. Wollongong at Adamstown Oval, 6:30 pm.

Adelaide Croatia v. WEST ADELAIDE HELLAS at Hindmarsh Stadium, 8 pm.

Last night's (Tuesday's) Cup matches: Brisbane City v. Brisbane Lions, Inter-Monaro v. Canberra Olympians.

SOUTHERN DIVISION

	W	D	L	F	A	Pt
MELB. CROATIA	2	0	5	0	4	
BRISBANE LIONS	2	0	3	0	4	
STH. MELB. HELLAS	2	0	4	2	4	
H'BORG ALEXANDER	1	1	0	4	0	3
PRESTON MAKEDONIA	1	0	1	2	2	2
BU-JUVENTUS	1	0	1	2	2	2
West. Adel. Hellas	1	0	1	2	2	2
Brisbane City	0	1	1	3	1	1
Sun. George Cross	0	1	1	2	1	1
Adel. City Juventus	0	1	1	4	1	1
Green Gully	0	0	2	4	0	0
Footscray JUST	0	0	2	1	6	0

NORTHERN DIVISION

	W	D	L	F	A	Pt
SYD. CITY HAKOAH	2	0	0	7	1	4
SYDNEY OLYMPIC	2	0	0	2	0	4
CANBERRA OLYMPIANS	1	1	0	5	2	3
MARCONI	0	2	0	5	5	2
PENRITH	0	2	2	2	2	2
Wollongong	1	0	1	4	5	2
Blacktown	1	0	1	2	3	2
APIA-Leichhardt	1	0	1	4	6	2
Sydney Croatia	0	1	1	4	5	1
Newcastle-Rosebud	0	1	1	2	3	1
St. Geor. Budapest	0	1	0	1	1	1
Inter-Monaro	0	0	2	4	0	0

Success for Olympic, APIA doomed?**From page 1**

Meanwhile, though, Green Gully has the toughest possible task in the National Cup. It meets none other than mighty Sydney City Hakoah in a Cup double-header at St George Stadium tonight (Wednesday).

The later match is between Sydney Olympic and APIA, whose fortunes contrast sharply this week.

Olympic looks set to beat APIA in the Cup and Canberra in the league, while APIA

looks doomed to two defeats the second against Inter-Monaro on Sunday.

Arno Bertoglio and Tony Morsello both were sent off last Sunday, and even the inclusion of Jim Hamilton from Scotland won't compensate for Bertoglio's absence in particular.

Inter-Monaro should have Emil Dragicevic in the team (see page 2) and Sebastian Giampaolo should be back after injury, to give Inter

Monaro its first win in the NSL.

South Melbourne Hellas, out of the National Cup, can concentrate on the league and is almost certain to beat JUST at Middle Park, to perhaps take over at the top of the ladder. Should Melbourne (Croatia) lose to Heidelberg-Alexander.

JUST, however, hopes to beat Newcastle and Brusnjanovic who missed last weekend's game due to injury.

Hellas is starting to look good again and will improve even more when Oscar Crino gets fitter.

Team of the Week

In brackets: Number of appearances in team of the week.

TRAIANIDIS (1)
(Makedonia)DOBSON (1)
(Makedonia)JACKSON (2)
(Bris. Lions)JENNINGS (1)
(Syd. Olympic)VALENTINE (1)
(H'Borg-Alex)MIRANDA (1)
(BU-Juventus)BRYANT (2)
(Can. Olympians)STEVENSON (1)
(H'Borg-Alex)EGAN (2)
(SM-Hellas)REIS (1)
(Bris. City)**BORAL
BRICKS**

We can help you build it.

RYANT LEADS

Steve Bryant of Canberra Olympians leads the Boral Bricks \$1500 Player of the Year award after his second best-on-the-ground performance.

And three players are joint leaders, with three goals each, in the Boral Bricks \$1000 top scorer's award. They are Mark Jankovics (Marconi), Charlie Egan (SM-Hellas) and John Kosmina (SC-Hakoah). Leading vote-getters:

11. Jackson (BL), Cristaldo (Melb. C), Gomez (SC), Egan (SMH), 10. Honeyman (WA), Kosmina (SC), 9. Goshing (Newc.), Bogaard (Newc.), Jankovics (Marc.).

Top scorers:

3. Jankovics (Marc.), Kosmina (SC), Egan (SMH), 2. Colaguri (APIA), Arnold (Syd. C), Stevenson (H'Borg), House (Melb. C), Gomez (SC), Lewis (GG).

SOUTHERN DIVISION

SUNSHINE-GEORGE CROSS 0 MELBOURNE CROATIA 2 (House 26th, Ward 46th) at Chaplin Reserve. Crowd: about 3500. Ratings by Craig MacKenzie.

PRESTON MAKEDONIA 0 SOUTH MELBOURNE HELLAS 1 (Egan 74th) at Connor Reserve. Attendance: 5000 (estimate). Ratings by Peter Desira:

MAKEDONIA Traenida 9, McMillan 8, Dobson 9, Dunn 7, Opsinidis 7, Petrov 48th, 6 Flavel 7, Ilioski 8, Heys 7, Spink 8, Lane 7, Cole 7, Coach: Bill Murray.

HELLAS Laumers 7, Russell 7, Yzendoorn 8, Blair 8, Postecoglou 8, McDowell 7, Halford 7, Chino 7, Murphy 7, Egan 9, Brown 7, Coach: Len Kenedy.

Best six for Boral Bricks best player award: 6 Traenida (PM), 5 Egan (SMH), 4 Dobson (PM), 3 Yzendoorn (SMH), 2 Ilioski (PM), 1 Postecoglou (SMH).

BRISBANE LIONS 1 (McGregor 7) WEST ADELAIDE HELLAS 0 at Richlands. Crowd: 1218. Ratings by Ricky Rossouw:

LIONS: Evans 7 — McKinnern 8, Redmond 6, Jackson 9, Niven 8, R. Stewart 8, J. Stewart 8, Ogden 6 — Anderson 6 (Hunter 88th), Carew 7, McGregor 7, Coach: Gordon Arrowsmith.

WEST ADELAIDE HELLAS: Sprout 8 — Hiern 7, Honeyman 8, Brown 7, Maccock 6 — McGregor 7, Atsala 6 (Molosidis 77th), Panagis 6 (Stamateopoulos 64th) — Scott 6, Konstandopoulos 7, Stefanopoulos 6, Coach: Neil McGahey.

Best six for Boral Bricks best player award: 6 Jackson (BL), 5 J. Stewart (BL), 4 Honeyman (WA), 3 Sprout (WA), 2 R. Stewart (BL), 1 McKinnern (BL).

ADELAIDE CITY JUVENTUS 1 (Costanzo 17th) BRISBANE CITY 1 (Reis 32nd) at Olympic Sports Field. Crowd: 1800. Ratings by Allan Crisp:

ADELAIDE CITY JUVENTUS: McNally 8 — Donnelly 6, Flounders 8, Nyskohus 8, Cecere 8, Santrac 6 (Rankin 59th), Northcott 7, Vilani 7, Maxwell 7, Mullen 8, Costanzo 8, Coach: Edmund Kreft.

BRISBANE CITY: Wishart 8, Fabrizio 8, Wilkinson 8, Milovanovic 8, Bribbley 8, Junna 7, Robinson 6, Mengotti 6, Carew 6 — Glicker 7, Reis 9, Coach: Tony Lowndes.

Best six for Boral Bricks award: 6 Reis (BC), 5 Flounders (AC), 4 Nyskohus (AC), 3 Wishart (BC), 2 Cecere (AC), 1 Fabrizio (BC).

NORTHERN DIVISION

CANBERRA CITY OLYMPIANS 2 (Hebb own goal 40th Bryant penalty 68th) PENRITH 2 (Wotherspoon 41st, Easthorpe 91st) at Jamieson Oval, Canberra. Crowd: 1460. Ratings by Peter Windsor:

CANBERRA: Franken 7, Jones 7, Harkins 7, Burke 7, Midailides 8, Sennett 8, Dingle 7, Bryant 9, Gibson 6, English 7, Penrivity 7, Coach: Roy Thompson.

PENRITH: Gibson 7, Cross 7, Macintosh 8, Ainsworth 7, Brogan 7, Toohey 7 (Ottawa 78th), Hebb 7, Wotherspoon 8, Easthorpe 7, Jones 7, Licitra 7, Coach: Willie Wallace.

Best six for Boral Bricks award: 6 Bryant (C), 5 Midailides (C), 4 McInnis (C), 3 Sennett (C), 2 Wotherspoon (P), 1 English (C).

MARCONI 2 (Jankovics 65th, Brown 87th) NEWCASTLE 2 (McLennan 81st, Milosevic 83rd) at Marconi Stadium. Crowd: 1140. Ratings by Alex Vesic:

MARCONI: McPherson 7, Carter 7, Henderson 7, Calderon 7, Rizzotto 7, Mason 7, Driene 6 (Shane 64th), 7, Tredinnick 8, Lowe 6, Kerby 6, Jankovics 7, Naumov 6 (Fawkes 64th), 6, Jones 6, McLennan 6, Milosevic 7, Coach: Willie Gallagher.

Best six for Boral Bricks best player award: 6 Gosling (N), 5 Tredinnick (M), 4 Boogaard (N), 3 Jankovics (M), 2 Milosevic (N), 1 Brown (M).

WOLLONGONG 2 (Gozik 46th, M. Kovacic o.g. 72nd) SYDNEY CROATIA 1 (Patkics 70th) at Wollongong Showgrounds. Crowd: 2500. Ratings by Knut Werner.

WOLLONGONG: Vardarev 8, Green 8, Willis 7, Dickson 8, Matias 7, Kerr 7 (Brodnik 70th), Bundalo 8, Hristovski 7, Godzik 7, Kotamanidis 7, Giannone, Coach: Adrian Alston.

SYDNEY CROATIA: Woodhouse 8, Kovacic 6, Rozic 8, Vidic 6, (sent off 76th), Tomasic 7, Basic 6 (Rezo 75th), Savor 7, M. Kovacic 7, Jurin 7, Arnold 6, Patkics 7, Coach: Vedran Bojic.

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Who needs Kapetanovic when you've got Bleiburg and Cristaldo?

S.G. Cross 0

M. Croatia 2

Scorers: Huse 26th, Ward

Venue: Chaplin Reserve.

Crowd: about 3,500.

Caution: Mitten (SGC).

Referee: Benito Upjohn 7.

So Domagoj Kapetanovic still hasn't arrived! Big deal, say some Croatia committeeen who are starting to think that perhaps caretaker coach Miron Bleiburg is the man for the job anyway and wonder if the expense incurred in bringing Kapetanovic to Australia will be worthwhile.

Plainly, Croatia's 3-0 wins in successive games and subsequent leadership of the Southern Division are making these committeeen rethink the plan to bring out Kapetanovic. The other part of that plan involves Kapetanovic bringing two Croatian players with him but one wonders about the need for that. Jim Campbell, Steve Gojek, Zeljko Gacic and Ako Kotanidis didn't play against Sunshine-George Cross — so maybe Bleiburg's squad has enough depth already. It certainly has enough quality.

Jeff Faulkner's tremendous second-half display was the one really bright note for the losers. Gerry Bennett and Steve Richardson got mixed up for both Croatia goals but maybe it just was one of those days for them had played well against Heidelberg the previous week judging from all reports.

What a find Victor Cristaldo is proving to be! He was irrepressible, the first to sail with a playing neatness—two or sending cheeky chips just over an opponent's head to the feet of a team mate. His delightful skills also were tempered with a fine positional sense and the ability to close down and pressure opponents, often winning possession. When the game flattened out in the last 25 minutes with Croatia cruising on top of a two-goal cushion, Cristaldo wasn't so prominent and during this period, Faulkner ruled the roost in midfield.

However, Faulkner received little support. Don McLaren, a good player, had an off day, as did cross striker Oskar Gildor. Carl Gilder kept offering himself as a rarely lost ball played to his feet. Noel Mitten looked more dangerous in the second half, especially when he came inside, while Ivan Istruk flashed in and out of the game and found get-

Jackson the answer

Bris. Lions 1

WA-Hellas 0

Scorers: McGregor 77th.

Venue: Richlands.

Caution: Panagis 36th.

Referee: Dave Nugent 9.

Brisbane Lions' young defender Steve Jackson is the answer to national coach Frank Arok's troublesome right back position.

Jackson, 21, showed in Lions' 1-0 win over West Adelaide at Richlands that he has all the skill, temperament and adaptability to be a Soccerco.

Jackson was a last-minute switch to sweeper when Lions lost their central defence of Ron Vasquez and Alan Hunter through injury on Friday night.

He was unbeaten in challenges while his distribution was as pinpoint as that of the man he used to watch closely in the Lions' NSL team four years ago, Jim Hermitson.

Jackson, who played right-back for Queensland against New South Wales last year, can hit the ball sweetly with either foot and as a fullback, he is one of the best attackers in the business.

"He said it all on the park. It was a magnificent display,"



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Craig Mackenzie

Man of the match:
VICTOR CRISTALDO
(Meli. Croatia)

tting past Tony Curcio a tough task.

But chances were hard to come by for Sunshine-George Cross.

Gary Ward won the ball from Bennett in the 10th minute but shot just wide of the far post, then four minutes later, the late arrival of Richardson, who had been unnoticed but his header from an Istruk free kick was well wide.

Ward should have scored in the 22nd minute. He laid the

ball off superbly to Drago Deankovic on the right, charged toward the near post but struck Deankovic's low cross over the top from six metres.

Then House struck, winning possession when Bennett and Richardson had mixed up, kicked the ball into the unguarded goal in the 26th minute.

Six minutes before the break, Mitten almost scored. Chris Taylor crossed to the far post where the unmarked Mitten had to slide down to get a touch. He just connected, sending the ball inches wide.

Kastner had come off

second best in a clash with Tony Curcio in the first half and required stitches to a gash above his right eye during half time.

A minute into the second half, the contest was over. Hesitation by Bennett and Richardson let Ward in to poke the ball past Kastner from six metres. Two mistakes, two goals — Sunshine-George Cross had paid the ultimate penalty.

House got clear in the 53rd minute but shot into the side netting then two Biskic corners found Shaun Parton towering above everyone at the far post in the 57th and 63rd minutes. Parton's first header went straight to Kastner. His second, struck with a awesome power, was spectacularly tipped over by Kastner.

Sunshine-George Cross created its best chance in the 80th minute. Roger Bain had replaced MacLaren and slipped the ball to Latif on the left of the Croatia area but he smashed his shot wide of the near post from eight metres.



Victor Cristaldo

Andrew Dettre

Man of the match:
GRAHAM JENNINGS
(Syd. Olympic)

St. George 0

Syd. Olympic 1

Goal: Ratcliffe, Stora, Barton, Cotton (St.G), Ratcliffe, Kalantzis (Syd.O).

Referee: Richard Lorenc.

St George has serious problems with its team once again. The 1984 tight-rope walk could be repeated if Saints don't patch up things fast!

In this tense, at times spiteful game, they were outplayed and out thought by an Olympic which itself was a long way from its best.

Ironically, the match was decided after 1 min 53 seconds.

A long Phillips throw-in was controlled by Ratcliffe and, from some 15 metres, slammed into the far corner of a far from alert Terry Greedy.

In the 24th minute a Cotton header and three minutes later a sudden Soper shot smashed against the crossbar to leave a fairly dull first half.

In the second 45 minutes the Saints showed much more bite and aggression but this only got them a batch of yellow cards.

Kalantzis headed just over the bar in the 52nd and, at the other hand, Cotton stumbled against the open goal.

Both teams had one or two more half chances but hardly enough to entice about.

Still, in midfield, Olympic was far superior to a bitterly disappointing Saints.

The Stone-Barton-J. O'Shea triumvirate lacks enough distributing skills to be effective. Individually they are all fine

Puskas and old boys show how

players but as a threesome, they appear to have the wrong blend.

Of course, the Saints' attack was just as pathetic and if you add to this an ordinary defence, you'll come up with a very pedestrian team unlikely to trouble the leaders.

Sydney Olympic, even with star defender Dakos, was rock solid at the back, thanks to evergreen Jim Ziros and that effervescent Graham Jennings.

But they, too, have problems in the attack where only the impulsive, youthful zest of Kalantzis could be praised.

Soper was subdued, without his usual fire and if Theodorakopoulos wants to do a big favor to pressment and to ground announcers, he will adopt, even if unofficially, a 'soccer name' to save us from getting lost in the labyrinths of his 16 tongue-twisting letters.

In an early game — an old boys encounter — former Hungarian hero Ferenc Puskas and a team of Magyar emigres against Pan Hellenic's Greeks — and lost 3-1.

But let one hasten to add that the best Greeks was the South American Hector Martinez, a tall ring-in at his impressive 33 or so among players of 40, 50 and more.

Puskas still showed touches of his genius, with passes sprayed 35 metres and further with laser-like precision.

The fans could admire the almost intact skills of former stars Schauman, Lang, Zuckerman, Pomper, Takacs, Abonyi, Patrinos, McCulloch and others.

And seeing the still silky smooth Schauman or Pomper control the ball we all wondered why today's performers find these basic skills so difficult to master. But they do...

Bertogna, Farina, Morsello sent off

APIA 0

SC-Hakoa 4

Scorers: (Kosmine 6th, Gomez 47th and 51st, Lee 89th).

Send-offs: Farina (H), Morsello (A), Bertogna (A).

Caution: Kosmine (H), Casaccia, Brown, Rowden, DeCeglie (all APIA).

Crowd: 2455.

Referee: G. Power 6.

Referee G. Power probably has set some sort of unenviable record which one hopes will not be emulated.

The referee reached into his pocket all of three times for three red cards and six yellow ones. On average, some sort of card was flashed every 10 minutes. Add to that an inordinate amount of freekick and you can imagine why the players and fans were irate.

Certainly, some of the fouls which earned cautions were no worse than as the referee's actions suggested and both coaches agreed that the cautions were handed out too readily.

Another possible ex-



Mick Mikolajczyk

Man of the match:
GERARDO GOMEZ
(SC-Hakoa)

Lee had centred Joe Watson's free kick.

In the 29th minute tragedy struck both teams. Strikers Frank Farina and Tony Morsello were sent off for serious foul play — fighting — after a clash in mid-field. Admittedly tempers were hot but little ensued out of the untidy scuffle and the sending off seemed harsh.

The early expulsions did not act as a deterrent and the coloured cards continued to appear for the rest of the game.

For a freekick just two minutes after the sending off, Gerardo Gomez increased Hakoa's lead with a delicate header over APIA's slowly advancing keeper Bob Catlin.

Another freekick, this time by Jim Cant in the 51st minute, saw Gomez race through a pack of defenders to side-foot a five-metre volley past the mesmerised keeper.

It wasn't until the 53rd minute that APIA managed to seriously threaten Todd Clarke's goal. However the ever-alert keeper made three brilliant saves in quick succession to thwart APIA's speedsters Colaguri and De Ceglie.

APIA was dealt another body blow when its key defender and best player Arno Bertogna body-checked Grant Lee in the 74th minute and was sent off because of a second cautionable offence.

APIA's understrength youngsters somehow managed to contain the score thanks to some close misses by the hard-running Hakoa outfit.

Given a right back opportunity and a smattering of territory and typified his team's competitive outlook as he defended resolutely and took every opportunity to push forward in a bid to complete a hat-trick.

After minutes from time, Grant Lee completed the day's scoring. John Kosmine's banana shot was carried by keeper Catlin and Lee slammed the rebound in from an acute angle.

STAR CLUB AT HELLAS

Traditionally Middle Park has been the forum for entertainment of the soccer kind. As of this Sunday, entertainment will also mean: "The Star Club".

Not just your average night spot, "The Star Club" will offer soccer fans the chance to mingle and rub shoulders with their on-field heroes. Apart from the operators from Light and Sound Productions promise guest performers, only the latest in music, reasonably priced drinks and a Sunday night venue that could see you raving till the early hours of Monday.

The grand opening takes place on Sunday at 8.00 pm.

The Star Club is situated in the South Melbourne Hellas social rooms, Aughtie Drive, Middle Park.



Gerardo Gomez

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**Rozic in,
Vidaic
sent off**

**Man of
the match:
SCOTT DICKSON
(Wollongong)**

**Wollongong 2
Synd. Croatia 1**

Goals: Godzic 46th, Patikas 70th M. Kovacic o.g. 72nd.

Venue: Wollongong Show-ground.

Crowd: 2500.

Referee: T. Sancy 9.

Sent off: Vidaic 76th.

Caution: Bundalo (W).

Sydney Croatia coach Vedran Rozic finally got his clearance from Hajduk Split after a long wrangle, and resumed as a player in this defeat.

He played for Sydney Croatia last year until Hajduk protested that it had not OK'd his transfer, even though the Yugoslav Federation had cleared him.

But even with Rozic on the field and playing well, Sydney Croatia lost its second match in two weeks, falling victim of Adrian Alston's giant killers.

To make matters worse, Buno Vidaic got his marching orders after 77 minutes — three minutes after Croatia had equalised.

Vidaic flattened Wollongong winger Bernie Godzik in a tackle after having received a yellow card before haltime.

Almost immediately after Vidaic had left the scene, Wollongong scored its winning goal.

The goal came off the head of Croatia defender Marjan Kovacic after Wolves fullback Phil Matias had sent an optimistic cross towards goal.

It was ironic the home side should have had to rely on an own goal as it created enough chances to have the game sewn up by that stage.

After a shaky start Wollongong took the lead 30 seconds into the second half after good work on the left by Dominic Giannini.

He eluded fullback Alex Kovacic and his high circling cross was headed home by Godzik.

Croatia equalised after 73 minutes through the energetic Jim Patikas.

He turned on a loose ball on the edge of the penalty area to send a low drive out of the reach of goalkeeper Natch Vardareff.

For Croatia, Patikas looked a big threat in the first half but the home side gradually contained him.

Central defenders Scott Dickson and Peter Willis again starred for the Wollongong team, gaining strong support from midfielders Alex Bandal and Zivko Hristovski.



Green Gully defender Steve McClelland (left) faces double trouble as Juventus stars Joe Sweeney and Andrew Zinni put him under pressure. At right is Green Gully's latest recruit, Andrew Young. Picture by LES SHORROCK.

At last — a positive display from Juve!



Ken Kontra

**B. Juventus 1
Green Gully 0**

Scorer: Cullen 28th

Venue: Olympic Park No. 2.

Crowd: About 1000.

Yellow cards: Young (GG),

Murray (GG), Zinni (BJ), Dowie (BJ), Miranide (BJ).

Referee: Chris Bambridge 8.

Juve, desperate for a win after a poor start to the season, approached this game in a positive mood and with a great deal of aggression, particularly in the first half.

Green Gully, the loser again, Hellas' the previous week, also displayed similar tendencies, and, as a consequence, this was quite an exciting match, although due to good defensive work by both teams, clear-cut scoring chances were at a premium.

Williams displayed his usual immaculate ball skills, and, pacing himself well, was Green Gully's most involved player throughout the 90 minutes.

Juve hit the front in the 28th minute. Yakkia Banovic spotted Andrew Zinni on the halfway line, for once without his shadow Andrew Young Zinni had time to control the goalkeeper's clearance, turn at young and beat him with his acceleration to the goal-line.

His cross was dummied by Joe Sweeney, and Robert Culkin, bucking up, had time to pick his spot from the edge of the penalty area.

Gully tried hard for the equaliser, and had a fair share of the ball, particularly in the second half, but for once goal-scoring machine Paul Lewis failed to deliver the goods.

Bobby McLachlan replaced

**Man of
the match:
RICHARD MIRANDA
(BJ-Juventus)**

hard tackling, distributed the ball well and produced some fine touches.

Williams displayed his usual immaculate ball skills, and, pacing himself well, was Green Gully's most involved player throughout the 90 minutes.

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Bobby McLachlan replaced



Fabio Incantalupo

David Smallman with Willie Vassallo with 10 minutes to go and Gully pushed forward, but Juve was untroubled to hang on to its well-deserved lead.

I am sure many supporters were disappointed and went home even before the match started. Little Athletics were held at the No 1 ground and with the Moscow Circus further down the road, the gates of the car parks were closed just before 2.30pm. Fans were turned away. Surely a rearrangement should have been made to accommodate the soccer crowd, but as always, the comfort of the followers of the round ball game was given low priority.

Gully tried hard for the equaliser, and had a fair share of the ball, particularly in the second half, but for once goal-scoring machine Paul Lewis failed to deliver the goods.

Bobby McLachlan replaced

**Blacktown 1
Inter Monaro 0**

Scorer: Larkin 32nd

Ground: Gabbie

Crowd: 962

Referee: A. Owens 7

Cautions: Brennan, Budini (IM)

Phil O'Connor and the Demons celebrated as Blacktown City notched its first win of the season, beating Inter Monaro by the narrowest of margins.

Miranda, although collecting a yellow card in the 31st minute, played with discipline and in addition to his usual

play, was a cut above the rest.

He turned on a loose ball on the edge of the penalty area to send a low drive out of the reach of goalkeeper Natch Vardareff.

For Inter Monaro, Paul Lewis had a good start but the home side gradually contained him.

Central defenders Scott Dickson and Peter Willis again starred for the Wollongong team, gaining strong support from midfielders Alex Bandal and Zivko Hristovski.

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CLASS PLAYERS NEEDED: KOVAC

**Heidelberg 4
Fooths JUST 0**

Scorers: Selemidis 21st,
Stevenson 61st & 75th, Tasiros 82nd.

Venue: Olympic Village.

Cautions: Janje (JUST)

Referee: Fokianos 8.



Laurie Schwab

stormed forward a few times to earn a consolation goal for J.U.S.T., but his best attempt was snuffed out by Oliver, who thus maintained his uncanny

record of 10 matches in 10 matches so far this year, including the night series which it won.

J.U.S.T. has won only one of eight matches, prompting club director Tony Kovac to say after the game that the club would redouble its efforts to 21st minute.

J.U.S.T. sorely missed its star midfielder Vladek Belic and defender Branislav Jovic who both were injured.

Theo Vagias, signed from Heidelberg during the week, made his J.U.S.T. debut at right back, while Soleimidis was used as a stopper without success.

Sweeper Tom Karic tried hard but even he was unable to stem the Heidelberg tide in the second half.

Before the onslaught, J.U.S.T.'s Milan Stojilovic twice was foiled by the grand goalkeeping of Jeff Oliver who saved shots in the 25th and 29th minutes.

And Joe Carroll, who worked hard, hit the crossbar with a header and drove just before half-time.

Heidelberg took over after the break when Stevenson and his fellow strikers Steve Winn and Steve Tasiros hit their straps.

Mike Valentine, who starred in mid-field, made the play that resulted in Stevenson scoring Heidelberg's second goal in the 61st minute.

Valentine was to remain at the heart of all of Heidelberg's attacks.

He played a square pass which Stevenson latched onto before barging past the defenders to score goal number three with a shot that went between Karic's legs in the 75th minute.

It was left to Tasiros to complete the scoring eight minutes from the end with a header after a cross from Stevenson.

Left back Zdravko Lujic

**Man of
the match:
STEWART
STEVENS
(Heidelberg)**

has to be the most underrated midfielder in the country. I advise the national coach, Mr. Arok, to have a close look at him," Stevenson said.

Ernie Iapai tried very hard for J.U.S.T., bringing the ball up the flank and getting involved in almost every attack, but Bill Lazopoulos on the other side was less prominent.

Curovic, who lost the ball so many times by trying to hold onto it for too long, eventually was moved out of defence, into the midfield, with Brian Donnell dropping back.

But J.U.S.T.'s defence became even weaker in the second half, during which Stevenson especially found himself with acres of room.

Ian McKie was excellent as usual at right back for Heidelberg and it was his cross which resulted in the first goal, headed in by Selemidis. John Metaxas also caught the eye with some snappy midfield work.

Carter had no cover



Alex Vesic

**Marconi 2
N.-Rosebud 2**

Scorers: Jankovics 65th,
Brown 87th, McClelland 81st,
Milosevic 83rd.

Venue: Marconi Stadium.

Cautions: Boogaard (N.),
Sankowski (N.).

On a sunny afternoon at Bossley Park, few people among the 1200 present could complain about the show put on by the home side. It was an all-out attack from start to finish, but with little to show for it.

Marconi came back strongly in the closing stages to score after a solo run by Rod Brown. Then, in the dying seconds, it was Brown again who soared high to head past Gosling but against the crossbar! In came Jankovics to head goalwards but by then Gosling was on his feet to save!

Les Scheinflug was dejected after the match: "There was so much pressure on my players to win this one. They were expected to win and when you are under that kind of pressure it is inevitable mistakes are made. We failed to cover for our attacking fullback and paid for it, yet we had so many openings and should have won comfortably."

The game, which ended in a 2-2 draw, featured 16 corner kicks — 14 to Marconi and only two to Newcastle. It was of little comfort to Scheinflug who is leaving the club.

Marconi moved the ball about with confidence and stretched Newcastle from all angles.

However, the "never-say-die" attitude displayed by Newcastle paid off in a devastating spell of counter-attacking soccer.

With 16 minutes remaining, Paul Carter was caught up-field and his position at full-back was taken by a counter by Owens, followed by a short corner, goalkeeping by McPherson and David Jones a challenge by Jones had McPherson drop the ball at the feet of Jones, who chipped it back for McClelland to score from 16 metres.

McPherson, incidentally, has joined Marconi from Melita Eagles.

Marconi came back strongly and almost regained the lead through Jankovics who broke through on the right but his shot just missed. The second goal came late in the game when David Lowe who broke through to face Gosling, attempted to go around the keeper and lost the ball in the process!

Well, if you are so benvolent you are bound to pay for it. That was the message from the Newcastle camp as Joe Sankowski found Neil Owens with a brilliant crossfield pass which left Marconi's defence exposed again. Owens, with metres to spare, decided to shoot from outside

**Man of
the match:
CLINT GOSLING
(Newc.-Rosebud)**

Two minutes later Marconi was not so lucky. Jones got the break on the left as Marconi midfield failed yet again to cover for its adventurous full-back Carter. Jones crossed to the far post for Dean Milosevic to glide home a right-footer which gave the visitors an unexpected lead.

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McCULLOCH SLAMS 'BORING' MARCONI

By STEPHEN DETTRE

Socceroo midfielder Tommy McCulloch is chafing at the bit, raring to get into stride with APIA and thankful to be away from Marconi's "boring" style of football.

"I'm a bit angry with Marconi over the way they delayed my transfer," McCulloch said.

"Marconi was childish over the whole thing and I was getting annoyed, but thankfully that's all behind me."

McCulloch joined APIA in a straight swap for midfielder Ian Gray last week.

McCulloch said he wanted to leave Marconi because "after four years with the club I felt I needed a change."

However, he also admitted there was an underlying motive.

"I felt that last year's Marconi was becoming a boring team," he said.

"I really don't believe that we provided value for the fans last season, even though we finished third and made the play-offs."

McCulloch believes Marconi was a far more entertaining side in 1983 under coach Doug Collins, who gave the players a free rein on the field.

"Doug was the best thing that ever happened to Marconi."

"It's a great pity he couldn't have stayed. I think he would have produced the results and provided a great, entertaining team."

"Doug never really constrained us."

"I know that the players enjoyed that '83 season a great deal and I think we played some attractive football."

"Okay, so we didn't do too well, but there was hope for the future."

McCulloch said that under current coach Les Scheinflug, Marconi had adopted a much more rigid, defensive format.

"I think that last year's side was boring," he said.

But McCulloch said he was not criticising Scheinflug as a coach.

"I suppose it largely depended on what he had available to work with."

"As national team coach he had a larger pool to choose from and his sides tended to be more adventurous."

Youth team

"The youth team was a classic example, because there he had two wingers and the whole side had a different approach."

McCulloch said he only just resumed training a couple of weeks ago, having taken an extended holiday after the Socceroos' world tour.

"It was my first break from the game in nearly three years," said Gray.

"I still find it hard to believe that I went that long without a real rest."

McCulloch said that young Socceroo commitments as well as a trial period with Southampton in England had absorbed nearly all of the Australian "off-season" and it was not until last December that he could toss aside his boots and kick up his heels.

"If anyone had told me in 1982 that I'd be playing for three years without more than a week off here and there, I'd have said I was crazy."

"And I nearly didn't."

"There were times last season when I felt there was no way I could play on the weekend."

"It wasn't a physical thing. It was a mental approach."

"You just become drained and can't motivate yourself into preparing for the match."

"Once the game starts, you automatically get keyed up, but afterwards it's a big drain."

The fact that his move to APIA means he's the sole national team representative in the side doesn't worry McCulloch.

"I thought we had some pretty good players at Marconi and you I was the only Socceroo there last year so that thought doesn't worry me," he said.

"And anyway, there are

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Tom McCulloch, now at APIA

Zwbgnycz

Last week we received a circular from the NSL, "Media Information" headed by an inviting line "What about these story ideas."

And there, numbered, were eight suggestions for stories, sent to dozens of soccer writers and editors.

With that, of course, soccer's worries are over: the Media, at its show The Light, will splash page after page of soccer news and feature in its volumes.

So far only a chronic shortage of ideas has prevented them from giving soccer the space it deserves.

Well we'd like to help, too. Here, gratis, are further story ideas.

* * *

SHALL WE TELL THE PRESIDENT? — Sure — but where is he? Cf leaders at Marathon United find messy accounts, dirty linen and rotted staff. They find anything except money. Should they tell the president Maybe. But he's missing, too. How will it all end? will Marathon chase their name, as usual, and walk away from the wreckage or will they pay off their debts in easy instalments over the next 345 years — that's the \$940,000 question.

NEW DEAL FOR FANS — Hopeless Cross have modernised its great facilities for the season, all in the motto of "The Fan is Always Right. Now it is keen to recruit a second, even a third fan. The massive facilities at the ground will include filled down nails in the benches, new duvets for the slabs in the kiosk and new gasmasks, his and hers, inc

SOCEROO GRAY IN FROM THE COLD

By CRAIG MACKENZIE

Ian Gray has come in from the cold. And that's great news for Marconi and Australia.

Gray, 21, had been in limbo ever since asking APIA Leichhardt for a transfer late last season before jetting off to Austria and Europe with Frank Marconi's Socceroos.

APIA stuck \$25,000 on Gray's head, a figure reduced to \$22,000 on appeal. Although Sydney Croatia offered to fork out the money for Gray's transfer he chose to join Marconi, in a swap for midfielder Tommy McCulloch.

"I trained with Marconi last week and there was a little bit of trouble there when Ron Caviggino resigned from the committee but the talk is that that matter can be cleared up," said Gray. "I think that last year's side was boring," he said.

But McCulloch said he was not criticising Scheinflug as a coach.

"I suppose it largely depended on what he had available to work with."

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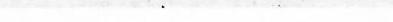
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nszky for 'Roos, Simon Simple stays put

THE ANDREW DETTRE COLUMN



SAINTS DESIDERIUS REVEALS SECRET — St George's resident, though ageing Saint Desiderius will have a limited role during the 1985 season. Club Apostle Francisus Arookus says the pious saint will not be able to perform for the whole 90 minutes. So at halftime he will give benediction and after the game he will hear confessions. Asked the secret about his long soccer life, Saints Desiderius vaguely said this was due to reindeer milk mixed with cepacol. Whenever reindeer milk was hard to get, he added, something stronger could be substituted.

LAKE SEARCHED FOR BODIES — Lake Burley Griffin is being

searched by Canberra police divers for the bodies of numerous missing Canberra coaches; roughly every 10 months one vanishes, usually after being accused of vital crimes. The latest victim actually demanded money for his services, an incredible act of selfishness which the club committee members would rather not do to their chosen professionals.

YOUNG TALENT EMERGES — With brilliant 10-year-old talent Włodzimierz Zwolnyński making Frank Arok's national team? Is he as good as Piotr Puskas, Zico, Baumgartner, Kostina or Slater were at the age of three? The boy, 18, — dazzled fans last week; twice he was observed controlling a difficult ball (bouncing heavily) with only seven touches. He also gave a chested pass in the same game (SAME GAME, how about that!) and though the ball ended up in the nearby creek, the family were in ecstasy for minutes. Zwolnyński has only ambition is to play for his country and he'll decide later at which sport. Meanwhile, relatives from the old country are sending him (Hello, Comet!) a few thousand spare vowels.

RULE BRITANNIA — A hard-hitting attack is mounted at those critics who claim that British migrants are not attracted to Australian soccer. Proof exists to the contrary: all the States coaching directors are British and most of the top referees, too, not to mention more than half the players and officials. It's only as spectators and ordinary fans that the British may be in short supply. But, alas, even they cannot be everywhere.

IS HE REALLY? — Bruno Paisano is just as hard a coach as he is a player. He drives his players to the point of exhaustion and beyond, then back again. Yet his players don't always perform well. After a recent

match he exclaimed: "I don't know why I am coaching." Echoes one of his players: "Is he?"

AUSTRALIANS FOR EXTRA SPICE? — No less than 11 of the 12 teams in the Southern Division of the NSL have a Mediterranean connection: Greeks, Italians, Maltese or assorted nationalities from what is today Yugoslavia. Brisbane Lions' Dutch contingent is the only exception: can they be happy in that company? Would it add to the interest if they also had an Australian club? Revolutionary though this idea may seem. If this is not possible, should we nominate a team to enter the bi-annual Balkan Games?

SIMON SIMPLE REMAINS LOYAL — Simon Simple, reserve midfielder of the Crookwood Rangers Under 12s, has decided against trying his luck in Australia. Simple, at long last, is one year away from the world of football and paradise. Will Simon Simple remain at home or will he stay in soccer? Simon says he wants to put back into soccer all he's ever got out of it: 72 oranges cut in half, 230 tins of coke and a black eye. "Simon will stay in Australia," says his mum, "although several big British clubs have already written to us." She refused to say what's in those letters. "I don't want to start off a price war," she says bashfully.

THE QUEENSLAND CONCOCTION — Our friends in the sunny, deep north lead the nation in peanut and pineapple growing, sand mining, Abo bashing, horse poisoning and political gerrymandering. Will they also lead in soccer? Can Lions continue as a soccer club or will they turn to merchant banking? Will Ian Brusasco succeed in enlarging the goal areas to match the entire width of the Barrier Reef, to get more goals? More details from Joh, scores from Flo.

Car crash and style change hit Wade hard!

As if things weren't bad enough, Paul Wade also had a car crash, and he's still feeling the effects of whiplash.

By LAURIE SCHWAB

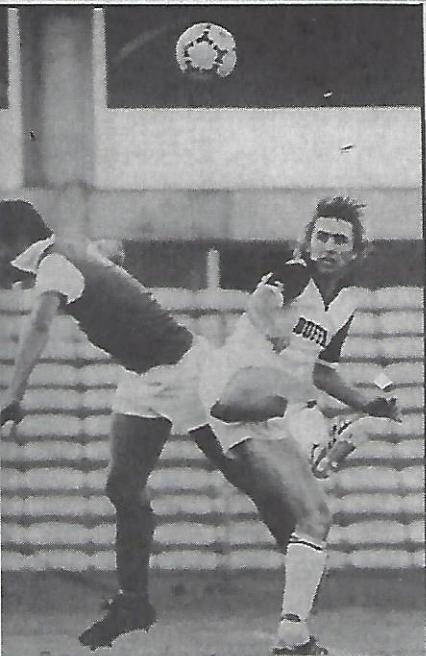
magic saves against his former club in the National Cup match and sometimes he's really worth his weight in gold, but I guess he's got to get used to a new back four and that takes time."

Young full back Frank Geremia probably has been Juventus' most consistent player this year but it is so often the case in teams that boast big-name stars, that the honest toilers like Geremia are sacrificed sooner or later. One hopes it will not be so with Geremia, and so does Wade. "Look, I've been left out of the team, and John Dowie's been substituted, so no one is sure of his future. Everyone will have to fight to stay in, and just because we've got a full squad again, it doesn't mean that Geremia will miss out."

But if there's one thing that's sure in soccer, it is that anything can happen at Juventus. So it has been for 15 years. We await further developments with interest.



Peter Lewis



Paul Wade (right) — recovering from whiplash and to fit into a new role at Juventus.

of the striker



Platini • Rumenigge • Marton

and he does so thanks to the spaces created for him by Rumenigge. "It is futile to deceive oneself that Rossi can go back to what he was at Juventus. Venenza, where he scored heaps of goals, that was seven years ago. Life for centre forwards is getting harder all the time."

"Now goals come easier for players who can come from behind and slot in. Strikers now have an important function, more as points of reference than as goal scorers," said Trapattini.

Indeed they have, although some players who are distinctly labelled as strikers still manage to do it freely. Notably Liverpool's Ian Rush, Verona's Preben Elkjaer, and most of all Milan's Mark Hateley.

But, as the new Hateley more than anyone personifies, these are not the centre-forwards the soccer world has been used to for over a hundred years.

They are mobile, roving men, covering immense territory with a yen for finding and running into space. Their height and muscular presence only add to their potency.

In our NSL, John Kosmin does a lot of roving — indeed, to pull a dumb centre back away from the middle is his most regular play — and so does Marshall Soper, as do Marton and Doug Brown.

Trapattini needs some very expert midfielders, with an instinct and ability for goalscoring, to exploit the new-style striker to the full.

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"Rumenigge seldom scores or Inter, Giordano very little forazio, and only Inter's Altobelli regularly gets among the scorers,"

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ADELAIDE CITY JUVENTUS 2 (Villani 49th), Maxwell 74th penalty), **WEST ADELAIDE HELLAS 0** at Hindmarsh Stadium. Referee: Mike Browning 6. Cautions: Donnelly, Costanzo (Juv); Brown, Konstandopoulos (Hellas). Sent off: Papadopoulos, Manou (Hellas).

ADELAIDE CITY JUVENTUS 8; McNally 8; Donnelly 7, Cecere 8, Flounders 8, Nyskohus 8; Meita (Mullen) 20' 8, Santrac 8, Northcote 7, Mawxell 8; Villani 8, Costanzo 6. Coach: Edmund Kraft.

WEST ADELAIDE HELLAS 8; Sprout 8, McGregor 8, Scott 7, Honeyman 8.

ALBION ROVERS

GOALKEEPERS: Charlie Cipri, Wally Bryden. DEFENDERS: Brian Galea, Mick D'Sylva, Stuart Gilmour, Tony Gatt, Steven Douglas, Ralph Barba.

MIDFIELDERS: Tom Purcell, Gerry Reilly, Gus Alfonso, Joe Piciocne, Alan Bennett.

FORWARDS: Toni Latif, Ayham Patsaman, Charlie Spiteri, Tom Robertson.

BOX HILL

GOALKEEPERS: John McKinlay, Robert Harrison.

DEFENDERS: David Brooks, Zdravko Basic, Craig Davidson, Gary McPhee, Alan Roodhouse.

MIDFIELDERS: Chris Taylor, Andy Hughes, Darren White, Pedro Ramos, Rafael Underwood.

FORWARDS: Andy Humber, Dave Azzopardi, Peter Verechia, Don Lawler.

TRANSFER LISTED: Dean Hennessy, Keith Valentine, Robbie McLachlan.

TRYING TO SIGN: Steve Irvine, Andy McMillan.

CROYDON CITY

GOALKEEPERS: Billy Whitside.

DEFENDERS: Mark Brown, Jim O'Reilly, Gary Bates, Dave Singleton, Jim Tansey.

MIDFIELDERS: Matt McDonald, Kenny Taylor, Tom Brewerton, Alan Kerr, Alex Livingstone.

FORWARDS: Peter Ollerton, Graham French, Dave Brogan.

TRANSFER LISTED: Steve Irvine, Dave Griffith, Ian Loughnane, Eddie Ormond, Micky Rainey.

TRYING TO SIGN: Steve Beech, Mick Edwards.

FAWKNER

GOALKEEPERS: Robert Terzini, Corrado Nobile.

DEFENDERS: Ralph Petrelli, Cesare Fattore, Frank Macleod, Renzo Lio, Michael Giacomi, Gary Hobson.

MIDFIELDERS: Fabio Angele, Colin Quigley, Peter Boyle, Paul Chavella.

FORWARDS: Bruno Cozzella, Joe Palinkas, Fabio Mancinelli, Frank Sabatino, Saverio Sgaglia, Andrew Heap.

TRYING TO SIGN: Mark Wilson.

FRANKSTON PINES

GOALKEEPERS: Lou Ivanoff.

DEFENDERS: Peter Thurlow, Steve Lawson, John Cullen, Dave Ferrier, Jim Wilson.

MIDFIELDERS: Paul Cooke, Jimmy Ross, Ray Thomas, Craig Miller, Rob Nelson.

FORWARDS: Alistair Dick, Richie Armstrong, John Cumming, Darren Rust.

TRANSFER LISTED: Steve Beech, Danny Davidson.

TRYING TO SIGN: Dennis Boland or Rick Janssen, Sten Webster, Ian Loughnane.

KNOX CITY

GOALKEEPERS: Robert Brian, Stuart McTurk.

DEFENDERS: Michael Stoffels, Mike Blasinger, Tim Tunstall, Adam Byrne.

MIDFIELDERS: Martin Wild, Dave Stack, Lucio Saisi, Guy Bakker, Dave Roddis, Tom Keenan.

FORWARDS: Norrie Pate, Milan Kojic, Colin Hawthorne.

TRANSFER LISTED: Terry Masters.

MORWELL FALCONS

GOALKEEPERS: Romeo Prezioso, Alex Eacott.

DEFENDERS: Harry Bingham, Emi Bruns, Graham Tutili, Domenic Palermo, Jimmy Train.

MIDFIELDERS: Jack van Baar, Tony van Baar, Steve Moore, Jim MacLean, John O'Callaghan, Effie Cassar.

FORWARDS: Russell Athrens, Ian Stratton.

TRANSFER LISTED: Stan Webster, Chris Kent.

TRYING TO SIGN: Dennis Boland.

NORTHCOTE

GOALKEEPERS: John Giannopoulos, Arthur Orfanakis.

DEFENDERS: Jim Stiljada, George Kourmenos, Arthur Patiniotis, Gary Cutler, Mark Wilson (subject to negotiation).

John Creany (expected to return from Scotland this month).

George Bozikis.

MIDFIELDS: Juan Toro, Chris Bekaritis, Alex Filippis, Jim Constantinos.

FORWARDS: Tom Patsakos, Con Dionisopoulos, Peter Constantinos, Petros Mousidis, Arthur Panagopoulos, Mike Micevski (subject to negotiation).

TRANSFER LISTED: Chris Ketsakidis, George Mihos, Sammy Wright.

TRYING TO SIGN: Bobby McGuinness.

POLONA

GOALKEEPERS: Leszek Dzielakowski, Mike Fryszer.

DEFENDERS: Rick Upikaris, Andrew Czupnik, Joe Vonje, Kevin Innes, Michael Giacomo, Stefan Avian, Svetlo Mila (expected to return from Poland within a fortnight).

MIDFIELDS: Dariko Kolanci, Dave Gibson, Peter Czupnik, Greg Czupnik, Leszek Gregorczuk.

FORWARDS: Janusz Przybyla, Greg Warszawski, Billy Auld.

RINGWOOD WILHELMINA

GOALKEEPERS: Peter Lee, Rick Janssen.

DEFENDERS: Fred Murray, Graham Haupt, Hans Meyer, Ron Verhaar, Paul Corke, Colin Werners.

MIDFIELDS: Des Shannon, Kees Storm, Barry Burton, Mark Baker.

FORWARDS: John Nyholt, Nick van Egmond, Rob Lange, Fred Hoogland, Kenny Stewart.

TRANSFER LISTED: Kevin Adams.

TRYING TO SIGN: Dennis Boland, Simeye Kebede, Lemma Kibret and Ermias Wondimmo will join the first team squad from May 1, when their suspensions by FIFA are lifted.

SPRINGVALE CITY

GOALKEEPERS: Gary Clayton, Perry Mur.

DEFENDERS: Dave Luca, Bobby Malt, John Luyten, Tom Fitzpatrick, Keith Humble, Brian Cairdoff.

MIDFIELDS: Ged Bannon, Gordon Bentley, Hugh Campbell, Ian Greener, Joe D'Amico.

FORWARDS: Eddie Bell, John van Dinteren, Jimmy Nelson, Neil Garvey, Peter Kars.

TRYING TO SIGN: Keith Adams.

ST ALBANS DINAMO

GOALKEEPERS: Mat Grbic, Darko Pokas.

DEFENDERS: Eddie Kuzman, George Radman, Danny Ramiljak, Mate Bozic, Steve Grbic, Gordon Pozar.

MIDFIELDS: Danny Dezi, Nod Batimovic, Zdenko Brkjacic, Vinko Pavic, Josko Loncar, Svetlo Rastovic.

FORWARDS: John Bruno (subject to availability), Dennis Morovic, Branko Culina.

TRANSFER LISTED: Rade Nobile.

TRYING TO SIGN: Darko Kuna, Zlatko Lerotic.

THOMASTOWN

GOALKEEPERS: Mauro Raponi, Sammi Di Masi.

DEFENDERS: Tony Cosentino, Danny Acsaki, Andy Smale, Paul Di to negotiation).

Brendan Lakic, George Watters (subject to negotiation), Frank Dallas (subject to negotiation).

FORWARDS: Fred Baller, Frank Fraga (subject to negotiation), Brian Flaherty, Vittorio Salvatore.

WESTERN SUBURBS

GOALKEEPERS: Jimmy Hatzilazarou, Rocky Tachiris, Nick Apostolides.

DEFENDERS: Billy Hamill, Andy Esposito, Frank Mussel, George Lakas, Hugh Howe.

MIDFIELDS: Steve Kakantoni, George Beattie, Steve Dimovski, Nick Melaris.

FORWARDS: Jed Stenson, Billy Bouzas, Keiron Coyle, Domenic Diliberto, John Condilis.

CUP OF SCARS!

S.A. Ampol Cup Final with ALLAN CRISP

But the victory was achieved at a high price. Juventus lost 1984 NSW Player of the Year, Sergio Meita after 20 minutes when he suffered a knee injury which will sideline him for four to six weeks.

Meita's injury resulted from a regulation tackle, as other players were scattered, battered and bruised by illegal punches, headbutts and kicks. And not all the wounds were inflicted by opponents as some

kicks and punches were flung by spectators who ran on to the pitch.

When the fiery final ended, referee Mike Browning had sent off Hellas striker Steve Papadopoulos and had yellow-carded Tim Brown and Chris Manou of Hellas and Mike Donnelly and Fortu Costanzo from Juventus.

Later, as Browning was escorted through the players' race by police, he sent off Manou for alleged abusive language.

Earlier there was another unpleasant incident when an enraged spectator leapt the outer fence and punched linesman John Papanicola on the back of his head.

The same linesman was later struck in an eye by a stone.

The first "round" ended in a Konstandopoulos knock-out

after 26 minutes when the Hellas striker was rendered unconscious for three minutes by a head-butt.

There was further trouble immediately after the game resumed when Konstandopoulos clashed with Bugsy Nyskohus (who was not the head-but expert) and within seconds, Juventus full-back Mike Donnelly clashed with Konstandopoulos.

The signs of Konstandopoulos lying motionless a second time within three minutes was too much for about eight fans who ran on to the pitch to remonstrate, punch and kick.

When the dust had settled after a two-minute delay, the only official action taken was a yellow card for Donnelly.

Had every incident been seen, Konstandopoulos, Neville Flounders and Donnelly should have been sent off.

Referee Browning should not be blamed for his inability to see every incident and while his linesmen bartled bravely with the invading spectators and to prevent other fights between players — their attention was diverted from the portable offences on the field.

When the football resumed, Juventus clinched the final with a brilliant free kick from 30 metres by Charlie Villiam and a well-taken penalty by Steve Maxwell.

Those same two players were the scoring heroes when Juventus eliminated Campbeltown City in a semi-final.

FALCONS STILL FLYING HIGH

By CRAIG MACKENZIE

Morwell Falcons will have Croydon, Fawkner, Frankston Pines and Polonia snapping at their heels as they try to retain the Victorian State League championship they first won last year.

Falcons were superb in the Buffalo Gold Cup and there's really no reason to believe that they can't win successive titles. Perhaps the most important factor against Falcons this year is the club's reluctance to accept entry to the VSL which comes with winning the championship.

It means that Falcons players, most of whom would dearly love to take a crack at National League soccer, have had to lower their sights.

Croydon already is talking in championship terms, about its title chances. And while there's not an abundance of depth in player-coach Peter Ollerton's squad, there's class to burn. Croydon will be right up there.

Polonia, especially if Stefan Mila returns from Poland shortly as expected, can mount a serious championship challenge as it did last year while Fawkner looms as another outstanding contender. So do Pines.

Springvale v. Knox
Ross Reserve, Saturday, 3 pm.
Springvale should start its first State League campaign with a win against a Knox squad which looks like struggling this season.

Knox coach Duncan Smith says that he'll play only in case of emergency and while I'm not suggesting that Knox should hit the panic button already, I've got no doubts that Smith would be a welcome addition to the Knox midfield.

Likewise, Ian Greener is a must in the Springvale line-up for mine. Greener is reticent about playing, just like Eric Lesbire was at Knox last season. But there's no substitute for experience and Greener, in midfield, alongside Ged Bannon and Gordon Bentley, Springvale looks far stronger in this department than the young Knox outfit.

Jimmy Nelson may have to carry the flag for Springvale up front for some time because Neil Garvey has a hairline fracture just below a knee and is expected to be sidelined for five weeks.

Springvale was trying to sign Keith Adams from Melbourne Croatia for time this class but negotiations with Croatia aren't going smoothly.

Springvale has offered \$6,500 for Adams but Croatia is holding out for \$10,000, a drop of \$3,500 on the original price.

Knox probably will line-up with Norrie Pate and Milan Kojic up front. Big John Luyten, an honest performer, will pick up Pate with either Dave Luca or Tom Fitzpatrick marking Kojic.

The midfield battle's the key to this one and for that reason I'm going for a Springvale win.

Albion Rovers v. Wilhelmina
Selwyn Park, Saturday, 3 pm.

Albion has enough dig and a few lads with character and can get a point here against a Wilhelmina side which I think will have a reasonable season.

The main worry for Wilhelmina going into this game is whether or not classy Dutch midfielder Kees Stenson can

shred off injury in time. He was hurt against Langwarrin in the Dockerty Cup last weekend.

Albion, traditionally a tough nut to crack at home, has bite in midfield with Gerry Reilly and Tom Purcell. There's plenty of playmaking ability there too in the shape of Joe Piciocne, the former Fawkner JUST and Marconi star.

According to a couple of Albion sources, young Gus Alfonso has come on a treat this season, so Wilhelmina's defence might find itself with its hands full if Albion wins a lot of the ball in the middle of the park.

But Wilhelmina's defence looks fairly solid with Graham Haupt as sweeper and the vastly underrated Hans Meyer as stopper. Big Fred Murray and Ron Verners will be the fullbacks.

It's to be expected in the top four to tell you the truth but football's a week-to-week proposition and I'll just be happy to win this first league game.

Peter Verechia played as stopper in last week's Dockerty Cup loss to Yalbourn but if McMillan joins then Verechia probably will return to his customary front running role.

Dinamo certainly can't be taken for granted. There's enough skill in the side and strength in the form of stopper George Radman and midfield George Braticevic, to make sure that the Hillmen have to fight every inch of the way for a result here.

Even so, I'm tipping a narrow win to Box Hill.

Fawkner v. Polonia v. Northcote
Raleigh Reserve, Sunday, 3 pm.

Polonia's main worries going into this match are injuries to striker Janusz Przybyla, leading marksman in State League last year, and left back Mirek Smolarek.

Claude Avian returned to defence last weekend after resting a nagging hamstring problem for three weeks.

Northcote too has injury worries but sweeper Gary Cutler, who injured a hamstring during the Buffalo League Cup semi-finals, hopes to be fit in time to start for Wilson's. Micevski still has negotiations for this past season.

George Bozikis looks like remaining sidelined by injury.

Big Tom Patsakos, signed by Northcote from Caulfield recently, will play an important part in his side's fortunes this year for before his arrival Northcote had just about the smallest forward line in State League history.

Fawkner probably will look to Brian Cozzella's pace and opportunism as its main avenue of attack as well as Joe Palinkas' tremendous running ability and dribbling skills.

A feature of Colin Quigley's play is his outstanding disposal and if Pines get caught too far forward, Quigley is quite capable of playing the ball over the top for Cozzella to break clear.

Suburs started off last season with the aim of reaching the top four. They finished sixth. Their aim this year is to consolidate their State League status.

"With another very good striker I could maybe sneak into the top four but right now we're looking at finishing somewhere in the middle of the league," said Condilis.

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Cosmos kicked out of 'non-existent league'

The North American Soccer League expelled the New York Cosmos last week for failing to post the required letter of credit for the 1985 season — and the action further reduced the league's prospects for survival.

The NASL is now down to two teams, Toronto and Minnesota, and league officials have said there will be no competition this summer unless at least six franchises are operating. With the uncertainty, the league has been unable to draw up fixtures for their season, which they had hoped would begin in June.

The Cosmos withdrew last month from the winter Major Indoor Soccer League, where low attendance

at their home games had caused them substantial losses. That move increased speculation that the team, once the flagship of soccer in the U.S. would not participate in the NASL.

League officials said the team was expelled because the Cosmos failed to deposit \$150,000 that would be used to cover debts if the team folded once the season began.

"The NASL constitution specifically states that all members must commit to next season by posting a letter of credit," Clive Toye, the league's interim president, said in a statement. "It is the one crucial measure of a club's intent. The Cosmos' failure to

post their letter of credit has been a handicap in the league's efforts to attract new member clubs."

Poppe Pinto, the managing director of the Cosmos, said he found the league's action "strange."

"I've always been ready to post the money when the league has a schedule," he said. "I have no desire to see the NSL close. I find it difficult to believe a non-existent league can tell the Cosmos we are not part of it."

Pinto said the club would stage exhibition games against teams from other countries at Giants Stadium.

Unless the league can come up with some new

franchise soon, Toye is expected to announce that the league will take at least this season off from competition. He refused to comment on that question except to say that an announcement about the league's future would be "forthcoming."

After the Cosmos officials left, executives from the two active franchises voted to expel the team.

When they dropped out of the indoor league, Cosmos officials cited losses of at least \$1.5 million as the reason. The team was averaging about 4000 fans for each home game in Byrne Meadowlands arena en route to a 11-22 record and last place in its division.

Athersych aims to get greedy!

"I'm going to be a lot more greedy this year. I'm going after the goals — definitely!"

And as sure as night follows day (where have I heard that before?) that means Morwell Falcons striker Russell Athersych is casting an envious eye upon top scorer honors in the 1985 Victorian State League.

Move over Janusz Przybyla (you too, Dave Azzopardi) for here comes a man with a mission, with ability, a classy pedigree and with enough good players around him to set the State League alight.

Born in Sheffield in England, within earshot of the roars from Hillsborough, Sheffield Wednesday's home ground, Athersych was signed as an apprentice by Chesterfield straight from school. Three years later he signed as a professional with Chesterfield, making 24 first team appearances in two seasons.

"I was playing as a target man in the reserves but I played off a target man in the first team. Things were going okay until the club got into big financial trouble."

"There was a big bust-up when it became known that the club was bankrupt. Mike Watterson, a snooker promoter, took over as chairman and

changed everything — players, the manager, the committee. I'd agreed with Barlow on a new contract but when John Duncan took over as manager he dumped me. Duncan told me that even though he'd never seen me play, he wasn't interested."

Athersych played with Goole Town in the Northern Premier League for six games then Jimmy Dunne phoned to say that he (Dunne) was going to Australia to coach Falcons and would like to sign Athersych. The young striker agreed terms with Falcons and arrived in Australia on October 26, 1983.

His first full season in Australia saw Falcons win the State League championship for the first time in its history and the State League Cup to boot. Surely, it was a great year for Athersych.

"I had a shocker. Let's face it, I only scored about five goals all year and when you're up front you're there to score goals. That's what it's all about."

He's a hard man to keep happy. I saw him play four games and he impressed me each time.

"Up here in Morwell, people who go to your games only see the ball going into the back of the net and know who scored. I mean, two or three weeks after the event, who remembers the build up?" Let's face it, if you're brought out here to

score goals and you only score about five, then you've failed.

"But that's going to change. I'm confident it will. Okay, if someone's in a better position you've got to give them the ball but there have been times when I could have had a go myself and didn't. That won't be the case this year."

Athersych echoes the sentiments of all the Morwell players when they talk about the club's refusal to accept an invitation to enter the 1985 NSL. But, from the club's point of view, he understands its reluctance.

So Athersych and his team mates have had to narrow their aims. They're trying to win in the State League championship for the second successive year and perhaps add the Dockerty Cup to their lists of credits (which would be another first for the club).

"As long as the lads don't worry about not being in the NSL or worry about winning the league and again not going into the NSL, then we can have a good year again."

"We've only lost Billy Whittington, Gerry Currie and John Higham from last year and we've signed Graham Tutill and look like signing Mick McGorran.

"Tutill should cover the loss of Clarke as sweeper and our stopper, Emil Bruns, is playing out of his skin at the moment."

But isn't there a problem at



Morwell's star striker Russell Athersych holds off a Knox City opponent

Morwell when Steve Moore and Jim Maclean both play in central midfield roles? Sure, they're gifted players, but do they compliment each other?

"Personally, I prefer Stevie playing in midfield rather than sweeper like he has been doing recently. Anyway, he's a damn good player and he can play anywhere but he scored a lot of goals for us last year as a midfielder and that was very important to the success of the team."

"I think Jimmy (MacLean) and I will work out a lot and let Stevie get forward a lot and we're going to need Stevie scoring, as long as Graham (Tutill) can keep things steady at the back the way Stevie did throughout the Buffalo Gold Cup. If me, Stevie and Ian Stinton are on target then we'll score a barrowload. Of course,

it hardly ever works out that way, so you need as many lads as possible capable of getting among the goals."

Romeo Prezioso played in goals during the Buffalo Gold Cup. He did well, but can the youngster maintain his form throughout the rigors of the league campaign?

Athersych is in the last year of a two-year contract with Falcon. He's maximum transfer fee clause in his contract, but there's a clause which stipulates that once his contract expires, he must be sent back home to England along with his wife. Once in England, he'll be a free player. What an interesting thought for the NSL club officials. I saw drooling over his talents during the Buffalo Gold Cup. And he's just 22 years old.

Hellas to miss out, Venglos in Malaysia

Overseas round-up
by PAUL MOON

The executive committee of the European Football Union (UEFA) has chosen West Germany as the host country for the 1988 European championships finals. West Germany had been recommended as the first choice ahead of England by UEFA's organising committee last month.

Former Soccerco coach Dr Jozef Venglos is now in charge of the Federal Territory team in Malaysia.

Harry Catterick, manager at Everton when it won the FA Cup in 1966 and the 1969 — 70 English League championship, collapsed during the recent Everton v Ipswich Town FA Cup game at Goodison Park and died soon afterwards.

The provisional dates for this year's Merit Cup in Singapore are October 12-22.

Sampdoria and England striker Trevor Francis was given mouth to mouth resuscitation after being knocked unconscious in a clash of heads with Udinese's Cesare Cattaneo during an Italian First Division game. Francis remained unconscious for five minutes. Hospital tests later showed that he had not suffered a serious injury.

Hong Kong newspapers have reported that the Puma Gold Cup will be suspended for this

year. If true, South Melbourne Hellas' invitation will naturally be withdrawn.

Alfredo Foni, a member of Italy's World Cup winning side of 1938, has died aged 74.

Australian Jim Preston helped an "English Combination" win the Golden Ox seven-a-side tournament in Hong Kong. The event involved teams representing all the ethnic communities of the Crown Colony.

Philip Reis, now playing for Tung Sing, has been called up for the Hong Kong national side. Brother Allan is in Brisbane.

Allan Simonsen, who broke a leg in last year's European Championship Finals, is reported to have made a full recovery and signed a new contract with his club Vejle.

Johan Neeskens will play for Groningen during the remainder of the Dutch League season.

Danish national team coach Rolf Mikkelsen suffered a fatal heart attack and will not resume duties for four months — a period in which Holland plays World Cup games against Cyprus, Austria and Hungary.

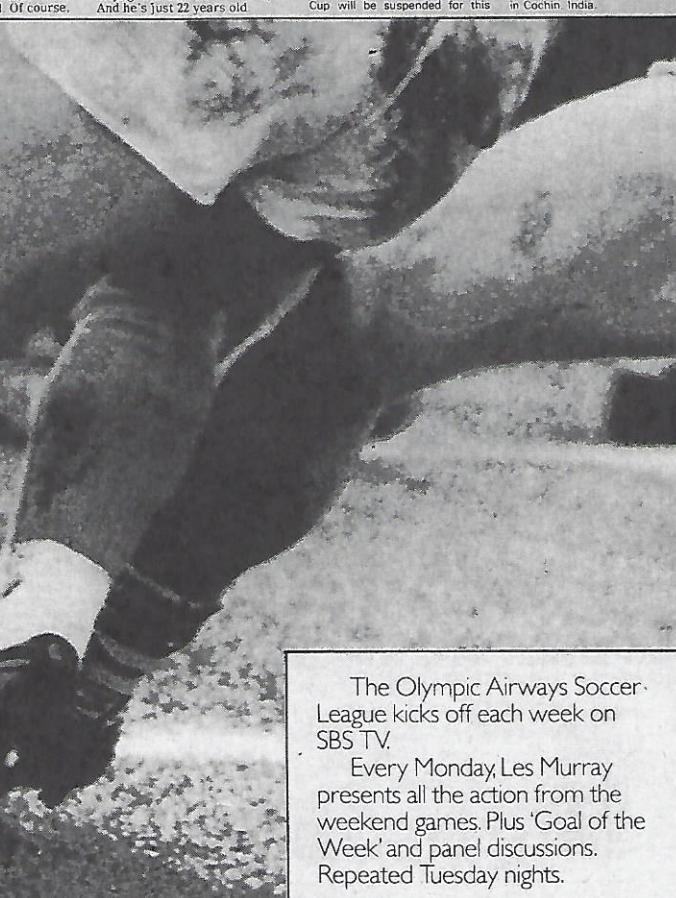
A Nigerian international has claimed that last year's African Cup game against Algeria was "fixed". The 0-0 draw enabled both teams to enter the semi-finals.

USSR beat Yugoslavia 2-1 in the final of the Nehru Gold Cup in Cochin, India.

Australian Soccer



6pm Monday



The Olympic Airways Soccer League kicks off each week on SBS TV.

Every Monday, Les Murray presents all the action from the weekend games. Plus 'Goal of the Week' and panel discussions. Repeated Tuesday nights.

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NATIONAL SOCCER LEAGUE

ROUND 3

23-24 MARCH

SOUTHERN DIVISION

PRESTON vs

BRUNSWICK JUVENTUS

at CONNOR RESERVE 3 pm SUNDAY 24th



Gary Cole

YOUTH GAME
PRESTON vs
BRUNSWICK
JUVENTUS
12.45 pm



Yakka Banovic

BRISBANE CITY vs
SUNSHINE GEORGE CROSS
at SPENCER PARK 3 pm SUNDAY 24th



Ossie Latif

YOUTH GAME
CROYDON CITY
vs
SUNSHINE
GEORGE CROSS
Venue to be
Announced



Kim Wishart

MELB. CROATIA vs
HEIDELBERG UTD
AT OLYMPIC PARK No 1 3 pm SUNDAY 24th



Shaun Parton

YOUTH GAME
MELB CROATIA
vs
HEIDELBERG
UTD
12.45pm



Jeff Olver

WEST ADELAIDE vs
ADELAIDE CITY
At HINDMARSH STADIUM 2.30 pm
SUNDAY 24th



Graeme Honeyman

See The
BIG
Local
Derby



Sergio Melta

NORTHERN DIVISION

SYDNEY CITY vs WOLLONGONG CITY

At WENTWORTH PARK 2 pm SATURDAY 23rd

NEWCASTLE ROSEBUD vs SYDNEY CROATIA

At ADAMSON OVAL 7 pm SATURDAY 23rd

MARCONI vs ST GEORGE

At MARCONI STADIUM 3 pm SUNDAY 24th

SYDNEY OLYMPIC vs CANBERRA CITY

At ST GEORGE STADIUM 3 pm SUNDAY 24th

PENRITH CITY vs BLACKTOWN CITY

At COOK PARK 3 pm SUNDAY 24th

INTER MONARO vs LEICHHARDT

At SEIFFERT OVAL 3 pm SUNDAY 24th